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casion in happier times as well as in these days of trouble and confusion, to show that our friendship is genuine and disinterested, capable of sacrifice and very generous manifestation. The peace, prosperity, and contentment of Mexico mean more, much more, to us than merely an enlarged field for our commerce and enterprise. They mean an enlargement of the field of self-government and the realization of the hopes and rights of a nation with whose best aspirations, so long suppressed and disappointed, we deeply sympathize. We shall yet prove to the Mexican people that we know how to serve them without first thinking how we shall serve ourselves."

In this address on Mexican affairs, the first printed in the volume, the president lays down the principles of democracy as they should be applied to international relations. Justice and right should alone be considered. The same principles that govern the relations of citizens in a civilized state are equally applicable between states.

Mr. Scott has written a brief but satisfactory introduction to the volume and informatory notes before the more important addresses.

C. W. A.

*Latest light on Abraham Lincoln and wartime memories including many heretofore unpublished incidents and historical facts concerning his ancestry, boyhood, family, religion, public life, trials and triumphs.*  
By Erwin Chapman. (New York: Fleming H. Revell company, 1918. 570 p. \$4.00 net)

This bulky volume is a labor of love which the author lays upon the altar of his devotion to the great emancipator. Its ambitious title lures the student of Lincoln to its pages with a keen zest for intellectual nourishment; he is therefore all the more disappointed to confront a situation which for half a century in the making must have wrung bitter tears from the muse of history. We are told that the author has been unusually careful to establish beyond question the truth of every statement and the deduction made therefrom resulting in "a Lincoln in whose lineage and birth, and personal experience and religious belief and experience we have every reason to be proud" (p. 5). Yet we find no critical analysis, no sifting of evidence; instead a tendency to rely on previous Lincoln commentators who have preceded the author in reaching an approved interpretation. Throughout the work an ill-concealed propaganda purpose, to create a Lincoln of whose absolute perfection the nation may proudly boast, peers out at the reader. Lincoln thereby becomes the epitome of all the ideals which Mr. Chapman himself has striven to attain—a believer in orthodox religion, a valiant leader in reform movements, and a temperance crusader.

After zealous defiance of those who would challenge the legitimacy of

Nancy Hanks, the book proclaims "Abraham Lincoln was also favored by prenatal preparation for his great earthly mission" (p. 28), proof of which is submitted mainly in references to illustrations of prenatal influence in bible history. One wonders where the author secured his evidence of the ideal environment in which Nancy Hanks moved during the period of her expectancy. "No where in history can there be found the story of a human life which more clearly and effectively illustrates the potency of prenatal influence than does that of Abraham Lincoln and his mother. There never has been, nor will there ever be, another Abraham Lincoln" (p. 31). Are these the calm conclusions of a judicious-minded historian?

Ignoring all evidence of Lincoln's religious doubts, he portrays a consistent devotee of orthodox religion, proclaiming, often upon clearly insufficient evidence, Lincoln's undoubted belief in the deity of Christ, in the doctrine of the atonement, and in all the miracles of the new testament. Colonel Jaques' testimony in 1897 to his conversion of Lincoln nearly fifty years before is quoted with uncritical comment. "There is every reason for giving this remarkable story unquestioning credence" (p. 397). The proslavery attitude of the church is indicated as the only insuperable obstacle to Lincoln's application for church membership. The story that Lincoln after the disaster of Bull Run travelled in disguise to the home of Henry Ward Beecher to seek comfort in the prayers of that great divine is defended on the general evidence of Lincoln's faith in prayer and of his personal regard for Beecher. So picking and culling, the octogenarian student and reminiscencer with Calvinistic fortitude builds up his picture of the predestined saviour of the union and perfect model for mankind. The volume, sadly lacking in synthesis, is not unlike the patch-work quilt which according to the story related by the author was miraculously transported in answer to Lincoln's prayer from a Connecticut mother's arms to the cot of her wounded son in North Carolina (pp. 544-548). So uncritical is the method of the author and the spirit of the volume that the reader involuntarily finds himself inclined to challenge even such conclusions as can stand the test of historical criticism.

ARTHUR C. COLE

*Report of the librarian of congress and report of the superintendent of the library building and grounds.* For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917. (Washington: Government printing office, 1917. 223 p. \$.40)

Librarian Putnam's latest report is restricted by "the economic situation" to the bare record of the library's operations "with only such explanations and comments as are needed to indicate their significance."